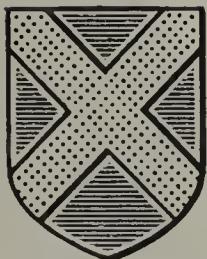


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CITY OF ST. ALBANS



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

GEORGE CUST, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

AND

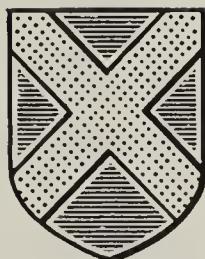
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

R. E. C. GODDARD, F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

FOR THE YEAR

1961.

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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

ST. ALBANS CITY

Councillor L.F. Gerrard (Chairman)
Alderman Miss E. Toms, M.A., Ph.D., J.P.
Councillor J.H. Brett
Councillor J.A. Brownlie
Councillor F.W. Bullock
Councillor E. Dobson
Councillor J. Farrelly
Councillor I.A. Parry, M.B.E. (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor L.H. Webber

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

George Cust, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health
R.E.C. Goddard, F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.
Chief Public Health Inspector
L.A. Croft, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.
Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector

B.W. Goode, M.A.P.H.I. (Resigned, 31st January)
F.W.P. Harmsworth, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.
H. Sumner, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H. (Commenced, 24th April)
Public Health Inspectors

C.W. McHugo, F.R.I.C.
Public Analyst

Mrs. K.F. James
Secretary

Miss B. Prechner
Clerk

R.H. Fox
Public Health Assistant

Health Department,
15 Hatfield Road,
St. Albans.

To: The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the City of St. Albans,
and the Chairman and Councillors of St. Albans Rural District Council

Mr. Mayor, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health of the City of St. Albans and the St. Albans Rural District for 1961.

It is the duty of the Medical Officer of Health to present an Annual Report to his Council. This is a statutory report done at the direction of the Minister of Health, and a great deal of the content and the statistics are given at his request. Many of the necessary statistics are not available until May of the following year so very often the Medical Officer of Health sits down to write about the health of his district six months after the events in question have happened. In addition some of the changes needed in the previous year have often taken place by the time the report is written, and there is a big temptation to anticipate events and write about the following year. In his 1960 Annual Report Dr. Sleigh knowing that it would be his last before his retirement, deliberately anticipated events, and as he says in his foreword to the 1960 report "I have added comments under the various headings up to the first of August 1961".

Dr. Sleigh was responsible for the direction of the whole of the work of the Health Department in 1961, and I must express my thanks to him for handing over the Health Department in very good shape. As I was not responsible for the work in 1961 I have kept my comments as brief and as general as possible, and have prepared the Report in the same form as previous years.

From the vital statistics the general health of the people of the district was good.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking you, Mr. Mayor, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, for all the consideration and help you have given me since I became your Medical Officer of Health. To my staff I would like to record my sincere thanks for the able and conscientious performance of their duties.

I would like to thank the Chief Clerk, my Secretary and staff of the Divisional Health Office for their work throughout the year, and for their assistance

in the preparation of this report. I would also like to thank the staff of the Town Clerk's Department for their help in printing this report.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

GEORGE CUST

Medical Officer of Health.

Section A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

	St. Albans	St. Albans
	City	R.D.C.
Registrar General's estimate of resident population	50,080	38,300
Area (in acres)	5,129	32,084
Number of inhabited houses on the Rate Books -		
Dwelling Houses	15,291	9,994
Shops with living accommodation	301	87
Licensed Premises with living accommodation	73	57
TOTAL	15,665	10,138
Rateable Value	£976,499	£521,977

Extracts from Vital Statistics

	St. Albans City			St. Albans R.D.C.		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Live Births -						
Legitimate	389	373	762	332	311	643
Illegitimate	36	26	62	11	12	23
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population			16.45			17.39
Stillbirths	10	11	21	4	9	13
Deaths	288	295	583	194	276	470
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population			11.64			12.27

Birth and Death Rates

Obviously the birth rate in any community will be affected by the percentage of women of child-bearing age and marital status in that community, compared with the average of the country as a whole.

Especially or even more so, a community with a high proportion of elderly people must have a higher death rate than one with few old people and many young ones.

In order to make comparisons between the rates in different areas and the country as a whole, the Registrar General has supplied "Comparability Factors" to be applied to these two rates so that comparisons can be made.

Applying these two factors to the City and R.D.C. gives the following results:-

	Crude Birth Rate.	Comparable Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Comparable Death Rate
City	16.45	15.79	11.64	11.87
R.D.C.	17.39	18.09	12.27	9.08

Deaths from Pregnancy, Child Birth, Abortion

St. Albans City		St. Albans R.D.C.	
Deaths	Rate per 1,000 (Total - live and Stillbirths)	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 (Total live and Stillbirths)
1	1.18	-	-

Deaths of Infants under one year of age

	St. Albans City			St. Albans R.D.C.		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	2	4	6	6	4	10
Illegitimate	1	-	1	-	1	1
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age.						
All infants per 1,000 live births			8.50			16.52
Neonatal Death Rate			6.07			16.52
Illegitimate Live Births (% of total live births)			7.5			3.5
Legitimate Infant Deaths (Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births)			7.87			15.56
Illegitimate Infant Deaths (Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births)			16.13			43.48
Stillbirth Rate (per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)			24.9			19.2
Early Neonatal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)			6.07			16.52
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)			30.77			35.35.

The following table gives the Death, Birth and Infant Mortality Rate since 1947:-

Year	<u>Death Rate</u>		<u>Birth Rate</u>		<u>Infant Mortality Rate</u>	
	St. Albans City	St. Albans R.D.C.	St. Albans City	St. Albans R.D.C.	St. Albans City	St. Albans R.D.C.
1901	13.0		21.6		135.4	
1902	10.9		21.4		67.4	
1947	12.6	9.2	17.9	16.5	33.0	54.0
1948	10.2	6.98	17.2	14.54	19.2	18.1
1949	11.5	8.2	18.2	14.8	13.1	22.2
1950	11.3	7.7	16.3	13.2	33.3	22.5
1951	12.0	7.7	16.4	13.3	27.6	29.1
1952	10.6	6.8	16.5	12.8	27.1	8.1
1953	11.52	18.05	15.60	14.46	29.87	28.64
1954	10.83	17.74	15.43	14.48	18.54	16.59
1955	10.32	19.10	15.93	15.16	15.23	15.28
1956	10.99	19.31	16.31	14.43	15.77	19.78
1957	10.87	16.00	15.48	15.31	15.03	17.79
1958	10.51	13.63	16.90	17.29	22.25	18.46
1959	11.45	12.08	17.62	17.76	16.34	23.51
1960	10.84	12.43	19.34	17.63	13.67	22.94
1961	11.64	12.27	16.45	17.39	8.50	16.52

Causes of Death

	<u>St. Albans City</u>		<u>St. Albans R.D.C.</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	-	1	2
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	1	1	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-
8. Measles	1	-	3	3
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	1	2	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	8	9	1	9)
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	17	7	14	2) Cancer
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	11	-	7) 183
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	4	-	2)
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	34	20	14	17)
15. Leukaemia, alukaemia	-	2	3	2)

16. Diabetes	1	1	-	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	59	57	15	36
18. Coronary disease, angina	48	39	36	23)Heart
19. Hypertension	3	13	3	2)Diseas
20. Other heart disease	22	34	30	48) 301
21. Other circulatory disease	12	21	5	20
22. Influenza	2	5	1	5
23. Pneumonia	16	18	19	43
24. Bronchitis	24	10	13	7
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	2	2	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	3	3	2
27. Gastritis and enteritis, diarrhoea	1	3	1	2
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	3	1	2	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	5	-	2	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	-	1	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	1	4	1	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	11	18	13	25
33. Motor vehicle accidents	7	3	2	-
34. All other accidents	5	5	7	11
35. Suicide	2	2	-	3
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-	-
TOTALS.....	288	295	194	276) 1053

Once again, the greatest single cause of death was, excluding heart disease, the Cancers. The six deaths from measles in the Rural District were all in children in hospital with severe mental subnormality.

The death in the City from measles was in a child who had an encephalitis which is a rare complication in measles.

Vital Statistics, 1961 - England and Wales

Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns of Registrar General.

BIRTHS

Live Births (per 1,000 total population)	17.4
Stillbirths (per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	18.7

DEATHS

All Causes (per 1,000 total population)	12.0
Infants under 1 year (per 1,000 related live births)	21.4
Maternal Mortality (per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	0.33
Neonatal Death Rate (per 1,000 related live births)	15.5.

This table is included to enable comparisons to be made between local rates and national rates, but in dealing with the relatively low numbers from which local rates are calculated, one must be very cautious about drawing conclusions.

Number of Deaths and Death Rate from Tuberculosis and Cancer, 1961

The provisional numbers of deaths and death rate per million population for England and Wales during the year 1961 are as follows: -

	Number			Rate		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Respiratory Tuberculosis	2,239	762	3,001	100	32	65
Other Tuberculosis	166	166	332	7	7	7
Cancer of lung and bronchus	19,459	3,350	22,809	871	141	494
Other cancer	33,982	43,123	77,105	1,521	1,810	1,670

ANALYSIS OF INFANT MORTALITY

(Combined figures for two authorities)

Cause of Death	Age at Death									Total under 1 year
	Under 1 week	1 and under 2 weeks	2 and under 3 weeks	3 and under 4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1 and under 3 months	3 and under 6 months	6 and under 9 months	9 and under 12 months	
Prematurity	10	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	10
Gastro Enteritis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital Malformations	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
T.B.	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Difficult Labour	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Haemolytic Disease of Newborn	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Other causes	2	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	3
All causes	16	-	-	-	16	1	1	-	-	18

Margaret Wix Health Annexe - High Oaks (St. Albans 56994)

Infant Welfare	Wednesdays 1.30 - 4 p.m. (Dr. attends 1st and 3rd)
Speech Therapy	Tuesdays 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. 2 - 4 p.m.
Dental	Monday a.m. and p.m. (weekly) *
	Friday a.m. and p.m. (weekly) *
	* By appointment

Wellington Court, Bricket Road (St. Albans 50421/2)

Immunisation and Minor Ailments	Mondays 9 a.m. - 12 noon (Dr. attends 9.30 a.m.)
Dental	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. Saturdays 9.30 a.m. - 12 noon (alternate)
Orthoptic	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 2 - 5 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday 9 a.m. - 12 noon; 2 - 4.30 p.m.
Ophthalmic	Tuesday and Friday 10 a.m. - 12 noon
Speech	Monday, Thursday and Friday 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 1.30 - 4.30 p.m.
Ante-Natal	Wednesday 2 - 4 p.m.
Infant Welfare	Tuesday and Friday 1.30 - 4 p.m. (Dr. attends Friday) Foods issued Tuesday and Friday.

Bricket House, Bricket Road (St. Albans 55431)

Orthopaedic	Monday, Wednesday, Friday all day Surgeon attends 3rd Wednesday and 2nd Friday p.m.
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Osterhills Hospital, Normandy Road (St. Albans 52211)

V.D. (Women)	Tuesday 5 - 7 p.m. Friday 2 - 4 p.m.
V.D. (Men)	Tuesday 5 - 7 p.m. Friday 10 a.m. - 12 noon
Post-Natal	Wednesday 11 a.m.
Chest Clinic	Tuesday 10.30 a.m. (Children) Monday 2 p.m. (St. Albans patients)

Hill End Hospital (St. Albans 55555)

Child Guidance	Monday to Friday a.m. and p.m.
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Sandridge - The Parish Hall

Infant Weighing	2nd and 4th Tuesdays 2.30 - 3.30 p.m.
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Shenley

Minor Ailments treated at school.

Wheathampstead - Mead Hall, East Lane

Infant Welfare

2nd and 4th Fridays 2.30 - 4 p.m.

(Dr.attends 3 p.m.)

Minor Ailments treated 8.30 - 9 a.m. at nurse's residence, 5 Brewhouse Hill (Wheathampstead 3123)

The original plan for the provision of Health Centres in and near the City is approaching fruition. The new Health Centre at Mandeville School should be opened in May 1962, Skyswood about October 1962 and Cunningham Hill about October 1962. This will give, along with the new Health Centre to be built as part of the new Civic Centre, a very good cover for the County Health Services in the City and its immediate surroundings.

It is difficult to estimate, especially with the freeze in expenditure, when the Civic Centre clinic will be opened but I hope within two or three years. When the new clinic is built Wellington Court will be demolished and on the site thereof will be erected a new Day Nursery. This is certainly the most suitable site that could possibly be found for a Day Nursery and will at last solve the problem of dispensing with the present Day Nursery at Fleetville. I would like to record my thanks to the City Council for their consideration in allowing us to continue to the use of Fleetville for so long.

National Health Service Act

The Divisional Administration of the Health Services administered by the Local Health Authority, the County Council, continues to work very smoothly and an increasing amount of detailed administration is being passed out to Divisional Health Offices from Hertford.

The records available in the Divisional Health Office on Local Health Authority work are of the greatest value to me in my Local Sanitary Authority (Medical Officer of Health) work.

Every ambulance journey exceeding 50 miles outwards has to be sanctioned by me as Divisional Medical Officer and I can assure you that the case is investigated very carefully indeed before consent is given.

Ambulance Service

I am grateful to Divisional Officer Gunnett and Ambulance Staff Officer Bawden for the following report:-

During the year 1961 the directly provided Ambulance Services at St.Albans and Harpenden carried 29,770 patients and covered 165,552 miles.

This is an increase of 202 patients and 1,861 miles over the previous year. The Hospital Car Service during the same period carried 1,317 patients and covered 75,034 miles.

An important advance has been made by the decision of the County Council to increase the establishment in order that a Training School for ambulance personnel may be instituted. A syllabus of training has been drawn up and during the coming year all men with little experience will be given the benefit of a comprehensive instruction.

Hospitals

I am indebted to Mr. E.J. Burgess, Secretary, Mid-Herts Group Hospital Management Committee, for the following information:-

The allocation of beds is as follows:-

	St. Albans City Hospital
Surgical	104
Medical	79
Paediatric	40
Geriatric	78
Maternity	29
Gynaecological	26
Recovery Ward	12
Infectious Diseases	18
Special Care Babies	7
Private Wing -	
Section 5 Beds	4
Section 4 Beds	6
<hr/>	
Total.....	<u>403</u>
<hr/>	
In-patient Discharges	7,874
Total Out-patient Attendances	50,679
Casualty	24,033
X-Ray Department Total Units	59,353
Physiotherapy Attendances	29,869

School Medical Service

This service continues to work very smoothly, due largely to the help and co-operation received from Head Teachers. I have been very impressed by the interest taken by parents and in about 75% of the examinations one of the parents has been present.

The innovation of calling parents up when their children are re-examined following a defect found at a previous examination has proved to be very valuable and is, I believe, thoroughly appreciated by the parents. The attendance of parents at such examinations is very good indeed. It was considered that this might overload the School Medical Officers, in that it would possibly take more time to deal with each individual case, but in practice we find that by calling the parents we do not have to call the children so often, and this fully balances the apparent disadvantage.

Medical inspections in schools undoubtedly cause considerable interruption in the normal life of the school and I would like to record my sincere thanks to Head Teachers for their co-operation in this.

Milk and Meals in Schools

These are of a very high standard and a well worth while investment. Washing facilities appear adequate in most cases and food preparation rooms and kitchens clean, though space is often limited.

Health Visiting

St. Albans City and Rural District - Combined Health Visiting Statistics for both Areas.

During 1961, there were 11 full time Health Visitors and 4 Combined Health Visitors/District Nurses employed in the Area.

24,090 visits were paid in their capacity as Health Visitors and this included 22,984 Child Welfare visits paid to children between 0 - 5 years.

During the year 580 Child Welfare centre sessions were attended.

In their capacity as School Nurses, they attended 336 School Medical Inspection sessions and 185 pre-medical sessions. 113 Personal Hygiene inspection sessions were held involving 14,378 schoolchildren. In addition 840 visits were paid to the homes and schools for follow up purposes.

Nursing Homes and Old People's Homes

There are four Registered Nursing Homes in this area and nine Registered Old People's Homes. All are regularly inspected.

Section C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supplies

See Public Health Inspector's Report.

Drainage and Sewerage

See Public Health Inspector's Report.

Swimming Baths

The public swimming baths in the area - one in the City and two in the Rural District - have at all times been well maintained. Continuous filtration and chlorination is carried out at all three and the bacteriological results, which are checked frequently throughout the summer have proved very satisfactory.

Public Baths

These have been going now for over ten years and undoubtedly provide a much-needed service. I have always emphasised that this service is a Public Health service and cannot be expected to be financially self-supporting, but the increasing numbers using the baths suggest that the gap between income and expenditure will decrease, but it will, I am sure, never close. To put up the charges would, I feel sure, increase not decrease the gap.

Mortuary

The following bodies were removed to the mortuary:-

Adult -	Males	62
	Females	31
Children-	Males	3
	Females	3
Number of Post Mortems		96

Agreement in principle has been arrived at with the Management Committee of St. Albans Hospital, that when the new Civic Centre gets so far as to require the demolition of the present mortuary, the Hospital will provide mortuary facilities not only for their patients, but for the district as well. A contribution towards the cost will be made by the Council.

General Nutrition

Poor nutrition is rare and often is the result of fussing parents indulging in food fads. Underweight children often are of small birth weight or have small parents.

Nursing in the Home

St. Albans City and Rural District

Combined Home Nursing and Midwifery Statistics for both Areas

I am very grateful to Mrs. E.M. Jeffries, the Divisional Nursing Officer, for the following report:-

In 1961, there were 5 full time Midwives, 8 full time General Nurses and 8 combined District Nurse/Midwives employed in the area.

Home Nursing

31,724	Visits were paid to Medical Cases.
7,383	" " " " Surgical Cases.
815	" " " " other cases.
<hr/>	
39,922	

Midwifery

537 Deliveries were attended and 8,143 visits paid after delivery. 38% of all confinements took place at home.

883 Visits were paid to mothers and babies who were discharged early from hospital.

5,563 Antenatal visits were paid to Expectant Mothers.

The drop in the number of births by 123 in 1961 compared with 1960 reduced the strain on both hospitals and home midwifery services.

Home Help Service

This service is administered by the Herts County Council and provides domestic help for households where such help is required owing to the presence of any person who is ill, lying-in, an expectant mother, mentally defective, aged or a child not over school age within the meaning of the Education Act 1944.

The Organiser, who is a member of the Divisional Health Office staff, receives requests from doctors, health visitors, midwives, hospital almoners and welfare organisations, but these requests must be backed up by a medical or a nurse's certificate. No one is denied help on financial grounds and every case can be assessed according to the family income.

The service is proving extremely popular. So much so, in fact, that we are unable to provide all the home help that is desired because we cannot get sufficient numbers of Home Helps. This is particularly difficult in the period Christmas - Easter when, of course, illness is at its height and one must remember that illness affects Home Helps as well as other members of the community.

I am indebted to Mrs. P.D. Taylor, the Home Help Organiser, for the following report:-

Cases Serviced 1961

	T.B.	Chronic	Blind	Acute	Accident	Misc.	Maternity
Other than O.A.P.	5	52	1	56	6	2	195
O.A.P.	1	343	9	19	NIL	NIL	NIL

TOTAL 689

Hours worked by home helps - 87,907;
Number of home helps January 1st 1961 - 85;
Number of home helps December 31st 1962 - 95.

As the figures show, the main burden of the work is for chronic elderly people and maternity cases. The maternity cases are home confinements, and usually have two weeks help. This is 40 hours per week if there are other children to care for, and 20 hours per week if there are no other children. The cases where there are children to look after have first priority on the service. Due to shortage of staff, the strain on the service is very great, and any other alternative or assistance to the service is very helpful. Meals-on-wheels (which are supplied 3 days a week in St. Albans and 2 days in Redbourn) are a great help to the housebound.

During 1961 there was an in-service training course for home helps held one day a week for seven weeks at the College of Further Education.

Subjects included health & hygiene and food hygiene, invalid cookery, care of children and old people, infectious diseases, home safety, emergency household repairs, laundry work, a visit to the electricity showrooms, and it ended with an "Any Questions" panel. 14 home helps attended.

There are now 8 home helps with over 10 years service and 10 with over 5 years service to their credit. These home helps receive badges at a presentation at Hertford which is held annually.

Chest X-Rays were continued, and many home helps attended the mobile unit when it visited St. Albans in February

The service steadily continues to grow, but recruits are not as many as would be wished.

The amount of work done by the service for old people is on the increase. Many of these would have to be in hospital if it were not possible to have home helps. The helpers often do extra work in their free time, and husbands are called in to do repairs or even gardening for the old folk.

There were two cases in one week where the home help could get no reply to her morning knock. She contacted the office, and one old man had had a stroke and died after being admitted to hospital. The other was an old lady who had a fall and fractured her ribs. Both these old people might have been left for a further 24 hours or more till someone noticed the milk had not been taken in, if the home help had not called.

The rural area is a more difficult service to organise than a city in some ways, but it is often possible to obtain one helper to do one case if there are old people to look after. There are no meals-on-wheels except in Redbourn, and the shopping is a problem. A chemist shop opened in Park Street during the year which has been of great assistance. Before that, the home helps from Bricket Wood and Park Street had to go to Watford or St. Albans to get prescriptions. We have one very kind doctor who visits Bricket Wood from St. Albans and always made his visit on a Friday at lunch time. Now he visits Thursday so that the home help can get the prescriptions on Friday. For home confinement cases, home helps are often sent from the City to meet the extra work. During the heavy snow at the end of the year, some helpers trudged a long way so as not to let the people down.

The County Council will supply a limited number of bicycles where there is a need, and this cuts down the travelling time.

All home helps now have nylon overalls. They are tidier, and keep in better condition than the cotton ones, as well as being easier to wash. A limited number of white plastic overalls were issued for where the home helps had to do a great deal of washing or very dirty jobs.

Section D

HOUSING

Rehousing is still the greatest problem confronting the two Councils. Both use a points scheme, and in addition all certificates from medical practitioners requesting priority for any of their patients are submitted to the Medical Officer of Health.

The Medical Officer of Health can then allocate additional points on medical grounds.

Section E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Food Poisoning Outbreaks

The following food poisoning outbreaks and isolated cases were reported: -

St. Albans City

2 Single Cases
(Typhi-Murium)

St. Albans R.D.C.

NIL

Section F

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1961.

	St. Albans City		St. Albans R.D.C.	
	Notified	Deaths	Notified	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	19	-	22	-
Whooping Cough	15	-	10	-
Measles	1060	1	939	6
Pneumonia	13	-	3	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	3	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	6	-	4	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	7	-
Acute Encephalitis	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-
Typhoid Fever	1	-	-	-
 <u>Typhoid Fever</u>				

This patient was a nurse working at Harperbury Hospital but living in lodgings in St. Albans. She was an Italian and had been in this country for only 9 days when she became ill.

Steps were taken to prevent the spread of this disease to her contacts and there is no doubt that the patient herself became infected when she was in Italy.

No ~~her~~ her cases occurred.

Measles

There were 1999 cases of measles notified during the year. Measles occurs in epidemics every two years and 1961 was the year we were due for an epidemic. There were 7 deaths from measles which I have commented about on page 7.

Tuberculosis

Cases on Register at 31st December 1961

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
St. Albans City	255(244)	138(141)	10(16)	16(18)	419(419)
St. Albans R.D.	170(164)	128(126)	12(11)	14(15)	324(316)
TOTALS	425(408)	266(267)	22(27)	30(33)	743(715)

Figures at 31.12.60 are in brackets.

The increases are, I believe, due to more intensive search for cases, e.g. Mass Radiography, and the better co-operation of other Local Authorities in notifying to us their cases moving into our district.

Smallpox

There were no cases during 1961.

Vaccination

The following figures obtained from the Divisional Health Office relate to the St. Albans Division, which comprises St. Albans City, St. Albans R.D.C., Harpenden U.D.C. and Elstree R.D.C.

Number of Persons Vaccinated (or re-vaccinated) during 1961

	Ages at 31st December						Total
	Under 1	1	2 - 4	5 - 14	15 and over		
Number vaccinated	1363	288	76	56	82	1865	
Number re-vaccinated	-	-	10	34	159	203	

Of the total number of primary vaccinations (1865), 906 were done at County Council Clinics.

Immunisation against Diphtheria

The following figures obtained from the Divisional Health Office relate to the St. Albans Division which comprises St. Albans City, St. Albans R.D.C., Harpenden U.D.C. and Elstree R.D.C.

YEAR OF BIRTH

1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956 & earlier
3	20	45	37	31	119

In addition, 1,274 children received boosting injections against Diphtheria and 201 children received primary immunisation against whooping cough only.

Immunisation against Diphtheria/Whooping Cough/Tetanus

YEAR OF BIRTH

1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956 & earlier
637	1152	160	63	54	188

In addition 672 children received boosting injections of Diphtheria/Whooping Cough.

Programme of Protective Inoculations

The following programme of inoculations has been recommended:-

Approx.
Age.

Vaccine

2 - 6 months	COMBINED diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough.
	COMBINED diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough.
	COMBINED diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough.
7 - 10 months	POLIOMYELITIS
	POLIOMYELITIS
	POLIOMYELITIS

Up to 2 years	SMALLPOX
15 - 18 months	COMBINED diphtheria, Tetanus and Whooping Cough.
School entry	COMBINED diphtheria and Tetanus.
8 - 12 year	SMALLPOX revaccination.
13 years plus	TUBERCULOSIS (B.G.C.).

We are now using a combined vaccine giving protection against whooping cough, diphtheria and tetanus. Tetanus is a very, very rare disease, but unfortunately it is almost essential for any doctor in hospital dealing with accident cases to give anti-tetanic serum (not vaccine, it takes too long to act) in all cases where there are wounds. Now if this patient has had other sera the giving of anti-tetanic serum can cause very serious trouble, in fact it has caused death due to Anaphylaxis. Now if the patient has been immunised against tetanus by vaccine it is definitely unnecessary to give anti-tetanic serum but it is most important, therefore, that all patients who have had vaccination against tetanus should carry on them at all times, the card showing when this was done. The patient may not be conscious when he arrives in hospital and cannot tell the doctor that he is immunised against tetanus and in any case his history is not always reliable.

A record card for the patient's use will be in use in 1962.

Poliomyelitis Vaccine

In April 1961, the Ministry of Health announced on the wireless and in the Daily Papers, that it was advisable for all children aged from 5 to 11, to have a 4th injection of poliomyelitis vaccine. No prior intimation was sent out to Health Authorities and the first day after the Minister's announcement we received many enquiries regarding this and had no official knowledge of it. Due to the outbreak of poliomyelitis in Ipswich, Liverpool and Hull and the resultant large scale "crash" vaccination programmes in these areas: a shortage of poliomyelitis vaccine developed in the middle of the year and many of the 4th injections had to be postponed.

B.C.G. Vaccine

If this vaccine is to be, or has been, given to a young child contact, there should be no immunising injections within six weeks before or after the B.C.G. vaccine.

APPENDIX

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
in respect of the year 1961
for the City of St. Albans
in the County of Hertfordshire

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors):-

	Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i)	Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.....	238	154	7	-
(ii)	Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.....	-	-	-	-
(iii)	Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).....	34	22	-	-
	TOTAL.....	272	176	7	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found:-

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted	
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. By H.M. Inspector	Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	4	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	2	2	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	9	9	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	Number of outworkers in August list required by Section 110 (1)(c)	Number of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	Number of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	Number of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices Served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel (making etc.)						
Cleaning and Washing)	25	-	-	-	-	-
Household linen	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lace, lace curtains and nets.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Curtains and Furniture						
Hangings	-	-	-	-	-	-
Furniture and upholstery	-	-	-	-	-	-
Electro-plate	-	-	-	-	-	-
File making	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brass and brass articles	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fur pulling	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iron and steel cables and chains	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iron and steel anchors and grapnels	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cart gear	-	-	-	-	-	-
Locks, latches and keys	-	-	-	-	-	-
Umbrellas, etc	-	-	-	-	-	-

Artificial flowers	.....	.....
Nets, other than wire nets	.....	-
Tents	.....	-
Sacks	.....	-
Racquet and tennis balls	.....	-
Paper bags	.....	-
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper	.....	-
Brush making	.....	-
Pea picking	.....	-
Feather sorting	.....	-
Carding, etc. of buttons etc.	.....	-
Stuffed toys	.....	-
Basket making	.....	-
Chocolate and sweetmeats	.....	-
Cosaques, Christmas stockings etc.	.....	-
Textile weaving	.....	-
Lampshades	.....	-

TOTALS 25

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

To: The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the City of St. Albans.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my twenty-third Annual Report on the work of the Department for the year 1961.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

A high standard of hygiene is maintained in the majority of food premises. Suggestions by members of the staff for improvements in a number of cases have been agreed to without recourse to legal action, thanks to the happy relationship which exists between members of the staff and food traders generally.

The regular sampling of milk retailed in the City has continued with very good results, which have obtained for some years.

Little slaughtering was carried out during the year at the local slaughterhouses, and as neither complied with the requirements of the new Regulations, and no proposals regarding their future use were received, the licences terminated on 31st December.

By standing arrangement over many years with St. Albans Rural District Council, assistance is given at the Sandridge Slaughterhouse on one day in each week.

Housing

During the year three areas in Albert Street, viz: Nos.11 to 25; 35 to 49 and 38 to 46 were declared Clearance Areas, as were four areas in Old London Road, viz: Nos.33 to 47; 51 to 55; 59 to 69 and 91 to 97.

The occupants of Old London Road Clearance Area (No.1) 1959 were rehoused, as were seven families from individual unfit houses.

Staff

To the members of the staff I wish to express my appreciation of the efficient and courteous manner in which they have carried out their duties and to thank the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their interest and support throughout the year.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

R . E . C . GODDARD

Chief Public Health Inspector .

7.0.11 Afrpr. St Albans B.

Leicestershire CC 1961.

J G Johnson 6/11/62. Inv 214 50 NOV 1962

INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following is a summary of visits made during the year:-

Dwelling Houses	258
Complaints reported to Department	258
Complaints re rats and mice	438
Complaints re flies, ants, bed bugs, woodworm, etc.	35
Infectious disease and contacts	16
Disinfestation of verminous premises	35
New Council Houses sprayed prior to occupation	13
Council Houses sprayed prior to re-occupation	136
Common lodging houses	13
Factories and workplaces	150
Cinemas and public halls	6
Rats and mice	3,395
Drains examined and/or tested	458
Smoke observations	62
Tents, vans and sheds	85
Licensed premises	47
Interviews	160
Food premises (see later section)	964
Miscellaneous visits	458
Revisits to premises under notice (P.H.Acts)	1,121
Revisits to premises under notice (H.Acts)	177
Swimming Baths	20
Shop Acts	68
Public Market and food stalls	1,366
Pet shops	8
Water-cress beds	25
Mobile shops	43
Factory canteens	20
School canteens	10
Noise Nuisances	18
Houses let in lodgings	36

DEFECTS REMEDIED AND SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT

The defects and nuisances remedied or abated were 972 and 180 preliminary and 17 statutory notices were served in connection therewith.

In addition to these notices the abatement of insanitary conditions is effected by an interview with those directly concerned.

The following summary gives particulars of work carried out as a result of inspections:-

Damp walls	101
Defective roofs, spoutings and down pipes	105
Defective floors, walls and ceilings	88
Defective window frames and sash cords	93
Drains cleared and/or repaired	68
Drains connected to sewer	1
New W.C.s provided	4
W.C. compartments repaired	23
W.C. pedestals provided	16
W.C. cisterns provided or repaired	36
Dustbins provided	29
Offensive accumulations removed	11
Foodstore provided or repaired	5
Chimney and stack repaired	17
Yards and passages paved or repaired	3
Animals - Nuisances abated	3
Contraventions remedied in shops	26
Contraventions remedied in food premises	105
Miscellaneous	165
Hot water supplies	20
Wash-hand basins supplied	30
Factories	23

DISINFECTION

Enquiries are made with regard to infectious diseases and to contacts from other infected areas.

Disinfection of rooms is carried out following cases of infectious diseases and in connection with cases of Tuberculosis and Cancer.

Sixteen cases of infectious diseases were enquired into and four houses or rooms connected therewith fumigated. Three houses in connection with Cancer were also fumigated.

DISINFESTATION

1. Eradication of Bugs

During the year, three treatments with an effective insecticide were carried out.

Of the premises treated, one was a private dwelling and two were Council houses.

As a preventive measure, thirteen new Council houses were sprayed with an insecticide before occupation and one hundred and thirty-six Council houses before re-occupation.

2. Other Vermin - Ants, Earwigs, etc.

Thirty five houses infested with ants and earwigs were reported to the department and treated with insecticide.

One hundred and fifty wasps nests were also destroyed by the Public Health Assistant.

HOUSING

HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND UNFIT HOUSES ELSEWHERE

A. Houses Demolished

In clearance areas.

	Houses Demolished	Displaced during quarter	
		Persons	Families
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation	15	3	2
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangements, etc.	-	-	-
(3) Houses on land acquired under Section 43(2) Housing Act 1957	-	-	-

NOT in clearance areas.

- (4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Sec.17(1) Housing Act 1957 - - -
- (5) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by Medical Officer of Health - - -
- (6) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts - - -
- (7) Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders - - -

B. Unfit Houses Closed

- (8) Under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35 (1), Housing Act, 1957 4 13 5
- (9) Under Section 17(3) and 26, Housing Act 1957 - - -
- (10) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act 1957 - - -

C. Unfit Houses made Fit and Houses in which Defects were Remedied

	By Owner	By Local Authority
(11) After informal action by local authority	180	-
(12) After formal notice under		
(a) Public Health Acts	17	-
(b) Sections 9 and 16, Housing Act, 1957	-	-
(13) Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957	-	-

D. Unfit Houses in Temporary Use (Housing Act, 1957)

Position at end of Quarter	Number of Houses	Number of separate dwellings contained in column (1)
	(1)	(2)
(14) Retained for temporary accommodation		
(a) Under Section 48	-	-
(b) Under Section 17(2)	-	-
(c) Under Section 46	-	-
(15) Licensed for temporary occupation under Sections 34 or 53	-	-

E. Purchase of Houses by Agreement

	Number of Houses (1)	Number of occupants of houses in column (1) (2)
(16) Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Order, purchased in the quarter	-	-

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are two registered Common Lodging Houses in the City and these have been well conducted.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

During the year under review the City Council approved the renewal of licences in respect of the stationing of seventeen caravans, situated as single caravans or in small groups, in various parts of the City. New licences were granted under similar conditions in respect of three caravans.

The Corporation now owns four sites - one at Abbey Camp, which holds fourteen caravans, one at Folly Lane, which hold ten caravans, one at Drake's Drive, which holds thirty caravans and one at Cell Barnes Lane, which holds eight caravans.

RODENT CONTROL

The work in connection with the destruction of rats and mice has again been carried out efficiently and the standard methods, as recommended by the Ministry, have been maintained.

The work is divided into two main sections - private and business premises - and the latter is sub-divided into casual and annual contracts.

Eighteen treatments were carried out at Local Authority properties, four hundred and fifty-seven at dwelling houses and two hundred and thirty-four at other premises (including business premises).

Treatment of the soil system of sewers was carried out and, as previously, infestation was found to be in the older part of the system.

PIGEONS

During the early part of the year sixty-three pigeons were destroyed at the Town Hall and the balcony and front of the building were cleansed and re-decorated.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

TYPE OF PRIORITY				(5) Agricultural
(1) Local Authority	(2) Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses)	(3) All other (including Business Premises)	(4) Totals of columns (1) (2) and (3)	
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District	42	15,435	1,829	17,306
2. Number of properties inspected as a result of				7
(a) Notification	11	364	59	-
(b) Survey under the Act	19	700	144	7
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	22	1,500	964	2,486
3. Total inspections carried out including re-inspections	112	4,373	1,494	5,979
4. Number of properties inspection (in Section 2) which were found to be infested by:				21
(a) Rats - Major	1	-	-	-
Minor	7	492	36	535
(b) Mice - Major	-	-	2	2
Minor	2	58	34	94
5. Number of infested properties (in Section 4) treated by the L.A.	10	550	72	-
6. Total treatments carried out including re-treatments	15	608	103	-
7. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act:				-
(a) Treatment	-	-	1	1
(b) Structural Work	-	-	15	29
8. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of notice under Section 4 of the Act	-	-	-	-
9. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out	-	-	-	-
10. Legal Proceedings	-	NIL	-	-

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

This Act came into force on 1st April 1952, and the City Council adopted the recommendations of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals regarding conditions of licence.

Three licences were renewed during the year.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

Throughout the year observations were made of factory chimneys within the City regarding excessive emission of smoke.

Managements were interviewed and advice given. Assistance was also obtained from the representatives of the Ministry of Fuel and Power.

SWIMMING BATHS

Water at the Corporation Swimming Baths in Cottonmill Lane is obtained from the main supply of the Colne Valley Water Company.

Regular inspections of the Bath have been carried out and twenty samples, ten from the shallow (inlet) and ten from the deep (outlet) end were taken covering the period May to September (and all proved to be satisfactory).

In addition, samples were taken during the same period from the pool at St. Albans School, St. Albans High School and Birklands School. This work is advisory and is done in co-operation with the school authorities.

SEWERAGE

With the exception of a few houses connected to cesspools all properties are on main drainage, the whole of the City being within the area of the West Herts Sewage Board.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Premises

The following table shows the visits paid to food premises during the year:-

Grocery and provision shops	219
Bakehouses	25
Cooked food premises (including restaurants, kitchens and cafes)	81
Fish shops (including fried fish premises)	47
Dairies and milk shops	125
Slaughterhouses and butcher's shops	224
Ice cream premises	68
Licensed premises	47
Mobile canteens	16
Other food premises	128

As will be seen from the foregoing, regular inspections of food premises have been carried out throughout the year.

These included bakehouses, of which there are thirteen on the register, fish fryers of which there are three and hotels and public houses at six of which structural improvements, including the provision of additional lavatory accommodation, have been carried out.

A list of food condemned at these and other premises is included in a later paragraph.

All food stalls on the Saturday market have been visited regularly and the stallholders have co-operated well in the handling and displaying of foodstuffs.

HEALTH EDUCATION

During the year, five lectures on the work of a Health Department and general hygiene were arranged for various audiences, including social groups, food handlers, home helps, etc.

The estimated number attending was 200.

COMPLAINTS re FOOD

Eight complaints regarding the condition of various articles of food were received during the year.

Two regarding "foreign matter" in bread were found on investigation to be pieces of brown dough which had not been removed from the machinery

before dealing with the following run of white dough; and one was an accumulation of poppy seeds (commonly used in bakeries as an embellishment and flavouring in bread and cakes).

Two complaints were received alleging the sale of portions of chicken which were mouldy. On the first occasion the attention of the vendor was drawn to the complaint, but consequent upon the second complaint against the same firm, legal proceedings were instituted. The firm pleaded "Guilty" and was fined £10.

A complaint alleging particles of glass in Corn Flakes was also investigated but it was impossible to determine whether the glass was in the packet of corn flakes, the milk or sugar which had been added, or in the dish.

Two complaints regarding mould on a malt loaf and on Devon sliced fingers were investigated, and the manufacturers and retailers were cautioned as to care necessary in the regular "turn over" of stocks.

MEAT INSPECTION

Twenty-seven visits have been made to local slaughterhouses for the inspection and examination of carcases for human consumption, as shown in the following table.

In addition fifty-four visits have been made to Sandridge Slaughterhouse in co-operation with St. Albans Rural District Council and the following have been examined, viz:-

Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
464	284	660	2,511

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed (if known)	18	11	83	223	335
Number inspected	18	11	83	223	335
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	-	-	5	7
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	11.1	-	-	2.2	2.1
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	1	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	0.44	0.3	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcase submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

ICE CREAM

(a) Premises

Premises (including ten registered during the year) for the sale of ice cream under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 are as follows: -

Manufacture and sale of ice cream.....	2
Sale of ice cream	170

Regular inspection was made of these premises and a number structural alterations and improvements have been carried out.

The premises used by retailers are all provided with portable cabinets for storage of ice cream which is received in bulk from the manufacturers.

(b) Bacteriological Examination

The results of the bacteriological examination of ice cream during the year were very satisfactory.

Of the sixteen samples examined, thirteen were placed in Grade 1, two in Grade 2, and one in Grade 4.

(c) Chemical Examination

Three samples of ice cream were submitted for chemical analysis and the Public Analyst reported that they were of good quality and complied with the requirements of the Food Standards (Ice Cream) (Amendment) Order 1953.

PRESERVED FOODS, ETC

The following premises are registered for the preparation and manufacture of preserved food: -

Sausages	34
Meat Pressing	1
Meat Pickling	11
Meat Preservation	12
Ham Cooking	11
Meat Pies	2
Sausage Cooking	2
Fish Frying	3
Poultry Cooking	1

MILK AND DAIRIES

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

Number of premises registered as Dairies at 31.12.60	3
Number of persons registered as Distributors at 31.12.60	39

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949

Number of persons holding at 31.12.60 Dealers' Licences authorising the use of the special designation "Tuberculin Tested"	7
--	---

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulation 1949

Number of persons holding at 31.12.60 -	
Dealers' (Pasteuriser's) Licences	2
Dealers' Licences authorising the use of the special Designation "Pasteurised"	16
Dealers' Licences authorising the use of the special Designation "Sterilised"	36

The following table shows the results of the bacteriological examination of samples of "Designated" milk during 1961. In the course of these examinations "Tuberculin Tested" milks are submitted to the Methylene Blue Test and "Pasteurised" milks to the Methylene Blue and Phosphatase Tests.

The figures in brackets refer to the corresponding results in 1960.

Designation	No. of Samples	Methylene Blue Test		Phosphatase Test	
		Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed
Tuberculin Tested	23 (35)	22 (33)	1 (2)	- (-)	- (-)
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	72 (117)	70 (116)	2 (1)	72 (117)	- (-)
Channel Island S.Devon (Pasteurised)	36 (63)	34 (63)	2 (-)	36 (63)	- (-)
Pasteurised	72 (117)	71 (117)	1 (-)	72 (117)	- (-)
TOTALS	203 (332)	197 (329)	6. (3)	170 (297)	- (-)

FOOD AND DRUGS

During the year, one hundred and forty-nine samples were submitted for chemical analysis to the Public Analyst (Mr. C.W. McHugo, F.R.I.C.) who reports as follows:-

"The number of samples examined under the Food and Drugs Act, for the year ending 31st December 1961, amounted to 149, of which 78 were Formal and 71 Informal. All the Formal samples consisted of milk.

The following table shows the average composition of the Milk samples, as compared with those submitted during the previous twelve months.

January 1960 to December 1960	January 1961 to December 1961
Fat...	3.73%
Solids-non-fat... . .	8.86% 8.90%

It will be seen from the above table that there has been a slight decrease in the average Fat content, but the percentage of Solids-non-Fat constituents has remained practically unchanged.

Three samples of Milk showed a deficiency in Fat content varying from 6% to 13% of the total Milk fat that ought to be present. In the case of one sample, the Solids-non-Fat constituent was also below standard.

I was informed by your Chief Health Inspector, Mr. R.E.C. Goddard, that these samples were all taken on delivery to a certain dairy from churns which had been collected from different producers and represented morning milkings.

As the samples taken in the evening from the same dairy were found to be satisfactory, no legal proceedings were instituted against the vendor.

A miscellaneous selection of Foodstuffs of various kinds has been examined during the year and these most convenient can be divided into three main categories:-

Foodstuffs
Condiments,
and Drugs.

FOODSTUFFS

Pork Sausages	Tinned Cream
Beef Sausages	Parsley Sauce Mix
Pork Pies	Cooking Fat
Steak and Kidney Pies	Cheese Spread with Ham
Minced Beef - Canned	Buttered Cheese Spread
Meat Pudding	Dietetic Lemon Squash
Beef Steak Pudding	Lemon Squash
Beef Chipolatas	Grapefruit Squash
Pork Chipolatas	Lime Juice Cordial
Pork Sausage Meat	Dietetic Lime Juice Cordial
Minced Beef	Lemon Barley
Liver Sausage	Orange Squash
Black Pudding	Dietetic Orange Squash
Canned Sausages	Blackcurrant-flavoured Cordial
Orange Crush	Non-alcoholic Ginger
Creamed Rice Pudding	Peppermint Cordial
Bee Cee Drops	West Indian Marmalade
Tussils	Lime Marmalade
Sugarless Pastilles	Lime Marmalade (sugar free)
Dandelion Coffee Essence	Cream (Double and Single)
Evaporated Milk	Yogurt
Ground Almonds	Desiccated Coconut
Mashed Potato (Instant)	Raspberry Jam
Jersey Cream	

CONDIMENTS

Mustard	Malt Vinegar
Ground Nutmeg	Ground Cinnamon
Ground Ginger	Ground White Pepper

DRUGS

Aspirin Tablets	Compound Lozenges of Bismuth
Compound of Sarsaparilla	Yeast Tablets
Peppermint Oil Lozenges	Charcoal Tablets
Peppermint Concentrate	Whooping Cough Syrup

I have examined during the period under review, nine samples of Sausages, four consisting of Pork and four consisting of Beef, and in the following table I set out the Meat content of these samples, together with one sample of Canned Sausages.

	<u>Sample</u>	<u>Meat Content</u>
<u>Beef</u>	No. 1	53%
	2	49%
	3	50%
	4	54%
<u>Pork</u>	1	63%
	2	56%
	3	57%
	4	70%
<u>Canned Sausages</u>	Pork and Beef	56%

There is at the present time no statutory order fixing the Meat content of Sausages, but I am of the opinion that 56-57% as shown by two of these samples is low for Pork Sausages.

All the four samples of Beef Sausages were satisfactory. Some of these sausages contained Sulphur Dioxide Preseervative, the amount present being within the permitted limit.

CONDIMENTS AND DRUGS

These consisted chiefly of the following articles:-

Mustard	Aspirin Tablets
Ground Nutmeg	Compound of Sarsaparilla
Ground Ginger	Peppermint Oil Lozenges
Malt Vinegar	Peppermint Concentrate
Ground Cinnamon	Compound Lozenges of Bismuth
Ground White Pepper	Yeast Tablets
	Charcoal Tablets
	Whooping Cough Syrup

All these samples were of quite good quality and the Drugs complied with the requirements of the British Pharmacopeia.

ICE CREAM SAMPLES

I was requested to examine and report on the quality of the Ice Cream sold in the St. Albans district. The Analysis of three samples was carried out and the following table shows their general composition:-

<u>Sample</u>	<u>Fat Content</u>	<u>Milk Solids other than Fat</u>
No. 1	10.5%	12.0%
2	8.5%	10.1%
3	10.0%	11.2%

The general composition of these Ice Creams was quite satisfactory and fully complied with the Standards laid down in the Ice Cream Order.

WATER FROM WATERCRESS BEDS

I have made a number of bacteriological examinations of the Water from certain Cress Beds situated in the St. Albans area, and, in most cases, have found that the springs were in a reasonably good condition and free from any marked infiltration of animal pollution.

TOWN SUPPLY WATER

I have made, as usual, during the twelve months, a quarterly examination of the St. Albans Water Supply, and am pleased to be able to report that it continues to possess a high degree of bacteriological purity and is, in every way, suitable to be used both for drinking and other general domestic purposes.

This completes my summary of the various samples taken in the City of St. Albans during the period from 1st January 1961 to 31st December 1961, and, in conclusion, it gives me much pleasure to acknowledge the valuable help and assistance which I have always received in connection with my work as Public Analyst, from your Chief Health Inspector, Mr. R.E.C. Goddard, F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., and his Colleagues in the Public Health Department.

(Signed) C.W. McHUGO
Public Analyst for the City
of St. Albans"

With reference to the samples of milk adversely reported upon and taken in course of delivery from producers to a retailer, advice was given at the farms concerned and subsequent samples were found to be satisfactory.

WATER SUPPLIES

Quarterly samples of water from the mains supply of the Colne Valley Water Company have been submitted to the Public Analyst for bacteriological examination.

The whole of the City area is served from public water mains direct to the houses with the exception of a very small number of houses in proposed Clearance Areas, where the pipes supply is by means of stand-pipes.

Complaint was received regarding the presence of suspended matter in the water delivered from the Company's main supply to a house in the City.

Samples taken by the department were reported as being "highly satisfactory".

The matter was reported to the Colne Valley Water Company, who stated that a number of complaints had been received from this occupier during 1960/61 and that investigations showed that the extraneous material came from the galvanized supply pipe leading from the stopcock into the house. It was suggested to the occupier that if conditions did not improve, it would be advisable for this pipe to be relayed.

Subsequently, the occupier of the premises indicated that the state of the water supply had improved.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Beef (Home Killed)	159 lbs
Lambs Livers (Imported)	31 lbs
Pigs Livers (Imported)	15 lbs
Pork (Home Killed)	51 lbs
Pork Shoulder	74 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs
Chopped Pork	49 lbs
Bacon	335 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs
Gammon	154 lbs
Ox Tongue	68 lbs
Ox Kidneys	7 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs
Jellied Veal	121 lbs
Sausages	29 lbs
Corned Beef	610 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs
Pork Luncheon Meat	423 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs
Luncheon Meat	95 lbs
Stewed Steak	89 lbs
Ham	321 lbs
Turkey	17 lbs
Chickens	64 lbs
Fish	8 stone
Household Flour	140 lbs

Tomatoes	35 lbs
Frozen Food (Miscellaneous)	360 packets
Ravioli	36 tins
Coconut Mallows	110 lbs
Mallow Creams	1,750
Softa Freeze Mix	4 gals.
Apricot Pulp	104 lbs
Peach Pulp	22 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs
Plums	40 lbs
Apricots	6 lbs
Apricot Jam	38 lbs
Jam	69 jars
Tinned Fruit	1,018 tins
" Vegetables	679 tins
" Milk	136 tins
" Fish	115 tins
" Soup	27 tins
Miscellaneous	195 tins
"	19 packets
"	45 jars

